



Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network Prairie Research Centre Call for Proposals

Context – Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network

The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) seeks to bring attention to the research deficit and knowledge disparity of the urban Aboriginal environment by focusing attention on the research, policy and programming needs of the urban Aboriginal community. The goal of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) is to be a durable research network that focuses attention on urban Aboriginal concerns and contributes to a better quality of life for Aboriginal peoples living in cities and towns by:

- Funding high-quality, policy-relevant, **community-driven** research undertaken by research centres that bring together urban Aboriginal community, academic and government perspectives; and,
- Engaging government, academic and Aboriginal community stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue on policy priorities and research needs.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council has awarded a Partnership Grant (over five years 2012 - 2017) to the UAKN initiative nationally. The Prairie Research Centre, housed at the University of Saskatchewan and serving Manitoba and Saskatchewan, has a portion of this funding to fund research projects under the following broad research themes:

- 1) Human development: needs and outcomes of individuals and families
- 2) Social cohesion: community well-being, education, justice
- 3) Economic development: economic participation, employment, entrepreneurship, income
- 4) Civic engagement: urban Aboriginal councils and/or urban Aboriginal community organizations and their role in the city.

Respecting the *community-driven* research process, other community recognized themes will be considered, if they are not included within these four broad research themes.

Call for Proposals

The Prairie Research Centre of the UAKN is seeking proposals for urban Aboriginal *community-driven* research projects. University researchers working in partnership with community partner(s) are invited to submit a research proposal detailing their anticipated research project on or before **February 15, 2015**. Research proposals will be accepted after the deadline as well, over the course of the following year, and will be adjudicated on a first-come, first-served basis pending the availability of funds.

Research proposals will be funded on the following basis:

- 1) Pilot projects or literature synthesis projects with a 6-8 month timeframe and a maximum budget of \$10,000; or,
- 2) Standard research projects with a 12-18 month time frame and a maximum budget of \$30,000.

A case might also be made for proposing a project that is larger in scale than the \$30,000 budget maximum or 12-18 month timeframe would permit, and applicants are encouraged to contact Ryan Walker or Jaime Cidro to discuss larger scale project concepts in advance of the deadline for proposals. Because this research is funded by SSHRC, budget categories must be based on SSHRC guidelines. Applicants are directed to www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/index_eng.asp

Research proposals need to contain the following information:

- 1) Proposed topic or title.
- 2) Body of research proposal (4 page max., 12 point font, 2.54 cm margins). The proposal must identify the research question, objectives, rationale, how the research is Aboriginal *community-driven* (see Appendix A for the UAKN definition of ‘community-driven’), relevant background literature, methods, timeline, plans for publication and dissemination, and budget. Budgets need to follow the SSHRC Form 300 as outlined below:

Salaries to students (including benefits)	Canadian and Permanent Resident		Foreign	
a) Bachelor's	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
b) Master's	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
c) Doctorate	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Salaries to non-students (including benefits)				
a) Postdoctoral	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
b) Others	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Professional and technical services/contracts				\$ -
Equipment (including powered vehicles)				\$ -
Materials, supplies & other expenditures				\$ -
Travel				\$ -
Total expenditures				

- 3) Written support from one or more Aboriginal community partner organisations (e.g., Friendship Centre) must be submitted with proposal, indicating how they are involved in the research project and how the proposed research is Aboriginal *community-driven*.
- 4) The budget may include payment to Aboriginal community partners for their professional services, time and expertise in support of the project (entered in the professional and technical services/contracts line in budget as per the template above).
- 5) In addition, please consider the following merit criteria in your submission:
 - a. Does the proposed research reflect one (or more) of the identified UAKN research themes? If not, please explain the importance of your research theme and how it is driven by Aboriginal community partners.
 - b. How will the research contribute to urban Aboriginal policy, community development and well-being as well as scholarly knowledge?
 - c. Will the project include the training of graduate and/or undergraduate students? How will they be involved, mentored, or trained?
Note: The participation of Aboriginal students is considered an asset and this aspect will be weighted heavily.
- 6) Intended audiences (e.g., urban Aboriginal peoples, academics, researchers, general public, government, other, etc.)
- 7) Explanation of how the research aligns with the UAKN Guiding Ethical Principles (Appendix A)?
- 8) University researcher(s) full name(s), professional title, full contact information, and a short CV (4 – 6 pgs. max.)
- 9) A strong application will show the applicants' ability to leverage other funds (e.g., funds to hire and train graduate students) and/or have funds already committed.

Project Deliverables

Projects must provide a written final report to be linked to the UAKN website, prepared using the format template to be provided by the UAKN Prairie Research Centre. Researchers should also be prepared to present findings at a regional and/or national UAKN or affiliated meeting/conference. Additionally, a summary statement of the research will be needed to use in press releases and for posting on the UAKN website. Other methods of reporting may also apply, and are encouraged, as projects align with *community-driven* research processes. Because the research is funded by SSHRC, and in order to reach a wide audience, researchers must seek academic publication of this work in refereed scholarly journal(s) and indicate in the proposal the journal(s) where they plan to submit the work.

Submission

Please submit the research proposal by email to Jane Westhouse, Research Administrative Assistant (jane.westhouse@usask.ca) by the above stated deadline. All research proposals will undergo an adjudication process by the Prairie Research Centre Executive Committee and applicants will be notified of the final decision shortly thereafter. All questions and enquiries during the preparation of the proposal can be directed to either:

Ryan Walker, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Saskatchewan and Director, Prairie Research Centre (ryan.walker@usask.ca; 306-966-5664), or

Jaime Cidro, Assistant Professor and NEAHR New Investigator in Aboriginal Health, Department of Anthropology, University of Winnipeg and Associate Director, Prairie Research Centre (j.cidro@uwinnipeg.ca; 204-789-1417)

Applicants may also wish to consult our website at <http://uakn.org>

Research proposals that are selected for funding will need to gain the approval of their respective university research ethics board and comply with any Indigenous research ethics board, where they exist. Principal investigators for awarded projects will be required to enter into a standard research agreement (i.e., setting out timelines, deliverables, payment schedule) and Tri-Agency Funding Invoice Agreement between their institution and the University of Saskatchewan.

Appendix A



DRAFT - Guiding Ethical Principles

Preamble

Research processes, over the last ten years, have changed to fully encompass Indigenous partners. Aboriginal peoples (Tuhiwai-Smith, 1999; UATF, 2007; Wilson 2008; Kovach, 2009; OFIFC, 2012) created a shift in thinking concerning the acquisition of knowledge, the process of research and how seeking knowledge, as it applies to academic research, can benefit both the academic scholar and the Aboriginal community. The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) is an example of how the research paradigm shift can be carried out in practice.

Research undertaken through the UAKN is premised on implementing meaningful change at the community level. The Guiding Ethical Principles encompasses an acknowledgement of community ethics concerning research. It is further recognized that this document is a small iteration of the many Indigenous ethical protocols currently existing.

Introduction

Community driven research practices are the foundation from which the UAKN has been created; as such, the UAKN strives to adhere to ethical principles relevant to the communities they are conducting research with. Additionally, ensuring the research is mutually beneficial to all partners is a fundamental principle of the UAKN. The UAKN Secretariat developed the Guiding Ethical Principles to represent the urban Aboriginal communities generally applied considerations concerning ethical

research and to provide a practical tool that encompasses the attainment of mutually beneficial research.

The UAKN project is funded, primarily, through the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council which is governed by the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans 2* (TCPS 2). The TCPS 2 recognizes the responsibilities inherent to conducting ethical research with Aboriginal peoples which necessitates respecting their knowledge and worldviews. Further, the TCPS 2 acknowledges the following,

Traditional knowledge is specific to place, usually transmitted orally, and rooted in the experience of multiple generations. It is determined by an Aboriginal community's land, environment, region, culture and language. Traditional knowledge is usually described by Aboriginal peoples as holistic, involving body, mind, feelings and spirit. Knowledge may be expressed in symbols, arts, ceremonial and everyday practices, narratives and, especially, in relationships. The word tradition is not necessarily synonymous with old. Traditional knowledge is held collectively by all members of a community, although some members may have particular responsibility for its transmission. It includes preserved knowledge created by, and received from, past generations and innovations and new knowledge transmitted to subsequent generations. In international or scholarly discourse, the terms traditional knowledge and Indigenous knowledge are sometimes used interchangeably.

The Guiding Ethical Principles is created to complement the TCPS 2 guidelines in conjunction with any recipient UAKN University and/or Indigenous research ethics boards.

The following principles will be taken into consideration by all researchers, academics, community partners and organizations while conducting research within the UAKN.

Principles

There are a number of broad ethical considerations when conducting research involving Aboriginal peoples, which include: a) the research methodology be in line with Indigenous values; b) that there is community accountability; c) that the research gives back and benefits the community; and d) that the researcher is an ally and will not do harm (Kovach, 2009; OFIFC's Research Presentation Protocol, 2012). The following principles seek to be representative of these ethical considerations.

Community Driven Research

The research project will be community driven and promote relational accountability in the following ways:

1. Research is to be grounded in community priorities, and constructed or designed collaboratively between communities and researchers (e.g., advisory committees or other formats relevant to community).
2. Research conducted is respectful of Aboriginal people's languages, cultural protocols, values, lifecycles and gender(s);
3. Research conducted is respectful of Aboriginal people's research approaches and protocols (where appropriate);

4. Aboriginal peoples and organizations will endeavor to be an active participant in the research process at the level of their choosing;
5. Principles of USAI (Utility, Self-Voicing, Access and Inter-relatedness, OFIFC) and OCAP™ (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession, FNIGC) may be looked to as useful guiding references to community driven research.

Protection

The research process will ensure the protection of all individuals, communities and/or organizations:

1. To protect the well-being of persons and communities involved in the research;
2. Minimize any negative impacts in all respects of the research process;
3. To ensure that the research will also serve the greater good of society.

Fairness

Fairness will be met throughout the research process:

1. Fair and equal treatment for all individuals and communities involved in the research;
2. Any person, community or organization will become aware of how the beliefs, values and biases of the researcher may influence and create unfairness to those involved in the research. If such biases are present, ensuring remedial steps are taken prior to conducting research will occur. The reflexivity approach put forth by OFIFC may be useful as a guiding and practical reference, where reflexivity is explained as an ongoing awareness of unbalanced power relations (OFIFC's Research Presentation Protocol, 2012).

Respect

The research process will provide respect for Creation and especially those involved in the research:

1. Honouring personal autonomy;
2. Honouring community protocols regarding the research process;
3. Regard for human rights and human dignity;
4. There is a right to confidentiality that will be determined by communities and/or individuals, pre and post informed consent (prior to project and after project completion), and disclosure of results;
5. Commitment to provide special accommodations and support to those in need.

Honesty

The research process will be honest and free of false claims:

1. To provide honest research;
2. To provide true and accurate results.

Community Relevance and Practicality

The research outcomes will ensure progress and practicality, especially as it concerns Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations that are directly involved in the project:

1. The research is intended to enhance social/community conditions and for society as a whole. The intent of the research outcomes may be to lead to action whereby research impacts policy which in turn will impact practices.

2. The research will be relevant to the urban Aboriginal community with the aim to link knowledge with action;
3. Research Agreements will be created between the researcher and community prior to starting the research projects. The Agreements will reflect the Guiding Ethical Principles, as well as any other ethics determined by communities.

Bibliography

First Nations Information Governance Centre. OCAP™. <http://www.rhs-ers.ca/node/2>.

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Tuhiwai-Smith, Linda. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. Zed Books Ltd.: University of Otago Press, 1999.

Wilson, Shawn. *Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods*. Fernwood Publishing 2008.
Panel on Research Ethics. Tri Council Policy Statement 2. <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/chapter9-chapitre9/>

Urban Aboriginal Task Force (UATF): Final Report. Toronto: Urban Aboriginal Task Force, 2007.